

NI Bulletin

A Publication of Numismatics International Inc.

Volume 54 Nos. 1 / 2



January / February 2019
\$4.00

Board of Governors

Chairman & Past-President: James Terry
President: Carl Young
Vice President: Peter Goldman
Secretary: Christopher Carson
Treasurer: Don Douglas
Director at Large: John Stich

All past Presidents are members of the Board of Governors.

Appointed Staff

NI Bulletin

Editor Emeritus: Marvin L. Fraley

Editor: Herman Blanton
P.O. Box 247
Mount Vernon, OH 43050
e-mail: hblanton@yahoo.com

Article Editor: Alan Luedeking

Index Editor: Christopher D. Carson

Librarian, NI Library

David Gracey
PO Box 570842
Dallas, TX 75357-0842
librarian@numis.org

Curator, NI Reference Collection

Carl Young

Membership Chairman

John Christian
P.O. Box 570842
Dallas, TX 75357-0842
membership@numis.org

Auction Manager, NI Bid Sales

Carl Young
P.O. Box 810521
Dallas, TX 75381-0521
auctions@numis.org

Publications Chairman

John Vandigriff

Book Sales

booksales@numis.org

Archivist

Ross Schraeder

For information about Numismatics International, please see the website at: www.numis.org
For comments or questions, please contact by email to membership@numis.org or mail inquiries to:

Numismatics International
P.O. Box 570842
Dallas, TX 75357-0842

Objectives of Numismatics International

Numismatics International is a non-profit educational organization. Its Objectives are: to encourage and promote the science of numismatics by specializing in areas and nations other than the United States of America; to cultivate fraternal relations among collectors and numismatic students; to encourage and assist new collectors; to foster the interest of youth in numismatics; to stimulate and advance affiliations among collectors and kindred organizations; and to acquire, share, and disseminate knowledge.

Membership Fees: Full Membership (Paper and Digital) \$30 per year. Digital Only Membership \$15 per year. Lifetime Membership, \$300.00 one-time payment. Membership fees are payable by mail: Numismatics International, P.O. BOX 570842, Dallas, TX 75357-0842 or via PayPal at: membership@numis.org.

ISSN: 0197-3088 Copyright 2019

Numismatics International, P.O. Box 570842, Dallas, TX USA 75357-0842

Numismatics International Bulletin

Volume 54

January / February 2019

Numbers 1 / 2

Letters:

<i>From the Editor</i>	1
<i>To the Editor</i>	29
From Your NI Board of Governors	24
Obituary	37
Errors and Corrections	28
Book News and Reviews	36
Hugo Vanhoudt	
<i>The Countermark with the Golden Fleece (from 1652)</i>	2
David Wolfer	
<i>In Search of the Martinique 1/2 Moco</i>	10
Paul Oostervink	
<i>Commemorative Medal, 400 Year Synod of Dordrecht, 400 Year Reformation</i> – <i>Ode to the Synod</i>	25
Mike Davis	
<i>Variety of Israeli New Sheqel 1988</i>	29
Robert Ronus	
<i>Three Talers not in Davenport</i>	30

Welcome to the first issue of 2019 wherein we start the year with interesting articles on various subjects. First off we have Hugo Vanhoudt—whose book *The Coins of the Burgundian, Spanish and Austrian Low Countries and of the French and Dutch Periods, 1434-1830* was reviewed in this magazine (Nov/Dec 2016)—writes specifically about the Golden Fleece countermark which concerns Spanish and Spanish American coins validated for use in Europe. Next we have David Wolfer who addresses the mystery of the Martinique half-moco, a rarity so great it may be unknown; read on for the fruit of his research. As we see the first two articles are about countermarks, a subject which in my opinion is gaining interest with collectors but problematically is also blemished by counterfeits including contemporary, “old” and modern. Let’s hope these and other such minded researchers and specialists can make progress ferreting out counterfeits. The Netherlands is currently celebrating the 400th anniversary of the Synod of Dort which theologically, historically and for the Dutch nation is very significant. Paul Oostervink wrote about the commemorative medals issued in 1619 for delegates to the synod (see *NI Bulletin*, January/February 2017) and now writes about the new commemorative medal. Robert Ronus presents three talers missing in Davenport and along with beautiful images of coins from large collections. Mike Davis writes about a 20th century variety from Israel. I hope you enjoy your bulletin.

Your editor, staff and board of governors all wish you the best for 2019.

Herman Blanton

The Countermark with the Golden Fleece (from 1652) Hugo Vanhoudt



Figure 1

Eight real of Philip IV, Mexico, assayer P (1634-66) 26.7 g, countermarked with the Golden Fleece. (Image courtesy Jorge Proctor)

Les Reaux d'Espagne & Mexico, estants contremarquez
 avec cette marque,  se pourront eschiller pour
 quarante & huit  patars.

Figure 2

Public announcement from February 20, 1652 mentioning: 'The reals from Spain and Mexico, countermarked with the Golden Fleece, have a value of 48 stuyvers'.

The trigger for this article was a silver lion taler of 1652, struck at the mint of Kampen in the Netherlands, with a very clear countermark with the Golden Fleece. The questions were simple: why this countermark? Is this countermark authentic? The countermark of the Golden Fleece occurs on multiple types of coins. The answers are more complex because in the world of collectors there are wild stories and questions regarding this countermark. The countermarked coins are rare and there could have been some coins countermarked in the 20th century with newly created (false) dies especially for collectors.

Applying a mark to an object to indicate and even guarantee the quality is a common practice in the world of metalwork. In order to indicate a change in the case of a coin, existing coins were given a countermark. This process is known as countermarking or punching.

Placing a Countermark



Figure 3

Figure 3 is a worn-out Roman sestertius of Augustus that received a countermark from Publius Quincirilius Varus, the governor of the German territories in AD 9. The local stamping on a worn sestertius was used in local Roman coin circulation. The exact reason of the countermarking is not known: local use? Payment of salaries? taxation?



Figure 4

Figure 4 is a 1/5 Philip daalder, struck in Antwerp in 1564. At Ypres a countermark with a crowned Y was placed during the siege by the Spaniards (1583-1584).

In the monetary history of the world, countermarking has always existed and gives an extra historical dimension to the coin or note in question. The origin of and the reason for the countermark cannot always be traced. Countermarks can be found on coins of the Greeks, Romans, the Middle Ages and on until the present day. Usually the strike is made manually and sometimes the striking is at a fixed place, such as on the obverse of the coin or on the neck of a portrait.

Just as in the production of a coin the dies add a specific monetary value to the metal blank, the countermark can affect the value and meaning of a coin. Countermarking was usually done by a government to deal with an undesirable monetary situation, but private individuals or institutions could also do it for various reasons.

Countermarks Confirming the Value of the Coin



Figure 5

Heritage Auction 1238 lot 5142. Courtesy of Heritage Auctions (HA.com)

Figure 5 is an 1876-CC USA Trade dollar minted in San Francisco, with multiple Chinese countermarks, called chop marks. Many silver coins have circulated for centuries as trading silver in Asia and received several countermarks from Chinese traders who thereby confirmed the (silver) value and accepted the coin as such.



Figure 6

Due to an immediate need for change in Belgium after independence in 1830, the Dutch copper coins of Willem I were countermarked. Figure 6 is an 1826 1 cent of Willem I punched with an ornate script letter L (for Leopold I, King of the Belgians) and circulated as a coin of 2 centimes. Another countermark with a B (for Belgique = Belgium) was also used.

Countermarking can be done to confirm that the value of a coin is the same as the face value. Coins were constantly the object of fraudulent practices with a wide range of techniques, from clipping a small part of the precious metal to producing coins with a lower precious metal content than the official standard. An agreed or recognized countermark could confirm the original official value of the coin.

Countermark Changing the Official Value of the Coin



Figure 7



Figure 8

Figure 7: A 1562 1/10 Philip daalder from the mint of Nijmegen, with a countermark from Zeeland introduced in 1573 to impose a war tax of 1/8 of the value.

Figure 8: A golden half real from the mint in Bruges (1560-1567) with a countermark from Zeeland for a similar war tax.

If a coin has or is given a different value than the official value, a countermark can make this difference visible to every user. Sometimes a coin has come into circulation with an unintentional error during the production process which was noticed too late: for example, the coin has an incorrect metal value. The value can be adjusted for such coins with a countermark to distinguish them from the 'good' pieces (see Figure 9). A countermark can be applied to validate a coin. This practice was often used to impose a tax: in a certain region or city only stamped coins were allowed to circulate and to obtain the countermark a certain percentage of tax had to be paid. The most famous countermarks during the 80 Years' War in the Low Countries against the Spaniards were made to provide the financial resources urgently needed by the government. For example, in the Northern Provinces in 1573, the value of foreign talers and fractional denominations (down to the value of 1/10 Philip daalder, see Figures 7 and 8) was increased by the States of Holland and Zeeland to collect a war tax. Only the coins stamped with the Holland or Zeeland lion could remain in circulation.

Counterfeit Countermarks

As happens with coins, countermarks were also copied for fraudulent purposes. The punching of countermarks on coins could generate financial benefits and therefore forged countermarks existed alongside the official marks. This was a very common phenomenon and the official countermarking with the Golden Fleece also had to stop because there were too many false countermark dies in use. In modern times coins for collectors have been punched with false countermarks. Making the distinction between an authentic and a false countermark can be very difficult. Even mint employees or inspectors could make mistakes, such as countermarking the wrong coin.

The Fraud in the Mint of Potosí

The countermark with the Golden Fleece was meant to be punched on the coins of 8 reals, and the lower 4 and 2 real denominations, to confirm their value and to distinguish these punched coins from the coins from Potosí with too low silver content or weight.

Since the 16th century silver had been mined by the Spaniards in the 'New Indies' of their American territories. There were several silver mines and mints in this region. Technologically Mexico was the best organized. The largest silver mine was in Potosí (then the Viceroyalty of Peru, now Bolivia). Because of the inhospitable location (4000 meters altitude and 700 km from the sea) conditions for the miners were miserable. Mining of the very rich surface first started in 1545. When this was exhausted poorer silver ore was mined with new techniques from deep underground. Up to 200 tons per year were produced at the beginning of the 17th century. However, from the 19th century the production declined quickly and other silver mines in the world surpassed Potosí in importance.

The purified silver was sold on the world market, but the biggest share went to the Spanish Crown, which received a large discount because of its taxes on the exploitation

of the mines. The exploitation of the mines and the management of the mint was in the hands of private individuals who usually received their license from the Royal Court and who were good friends of the king or his entourage.

The silver was delivered in bars and coins. For the coins, the king imposed a standard that had to be adhered to under penalty of death. This made sense, as the king immediately shipped the coins to the ports or places where he had to make payments so he had to be sure that all coins were of correct value. If the coins were not in accordance with the standard, the king would be considered a bad payer. Under Philip IV there was a huge crisis when the whole world, from Asia to Europe, started to refuse to accept reals as payment because of their fraudulently low silver content. This fraud was investigated and the Potosí mint was found responsible.

In the 17th century, a stranger entered the city administration of Potosí, Captain Francisco Gomez de la Rocha. He was a friendly Spaniard from Extremadura, who had made his fortune as captain and war hero. He invested in the booming mining industry during the war and became very rich, which gave him great prestige and power. In 1642 he set up a corrupt trade network with many high-ranking connections whose cornerstone was the highest officer of the Mint, treasurer Bartolomé Hernandez. The conspiracy included many more important people, such as the mayor of Potosí with his extensive legal and military power. It has even been alleged that the viceroy and senior officials in Spain were involved because this fraud lasted almost 8 years (1642-1649). It is certain that officials at a very high level remained silent. The fraud consisted of lowering substantially the silver content of the Potosí coins.



Figure 9

A new production of coins (8 real) in 1649-1651 in Potosi appeared on closer inspection not to comply fully with the standard silver content. These coins were put into circulation by coin master Francisco de Nestares at a rate of 7-1/2 reals for the 8 real piece and 3-3/4 reals for the coin of 4 reals. To make this very specific change recognizable they were stamped with a crown (Figure 9).



Figure 10

8 real 1653, struck at Potosi: new type 8 real with the Hercules columns

The oldest complaint about a Potosi coin was dated April 12, 1644 when the authorities in Seville indicated that coins found in the Indies had a low silver content. The 30-years War was a greater priority at the time and it was only on July 7, 1648—after fraud had again been detected in Potosi coins—that a strict investigation was ordered by King Philip IV. On September 5, 1648, a similar complaint from the Kingdom of Castile stated that the silver levels were as low as 60%. It was the king's treasury which had to make compensation when there were complaints from abroad. After Genoa banned the use of coins from Peru and the Jews considered similar measures, King Philip IV sent the priest and inquisitor, Francisco de Nestares Marin, to Potosi to check and rectify the coinage situation. Nestares discovered the fraud that had lasted 8 years. He arrested more than 50 persons involved including members of the city council and traders. Some of them ended on the gallows. In addition to numerous drastic measures, all coins, including good ones, were devalued in an effort to eliminate the discredit and restore the integrity of Potosi's currency. Captain Francisco Gomez de la Rocha, the organizer of the fraud, was imprisoned and his fortune expropriated. Later he was beheaded and his head was exhibited at the entrance of the mint. The management of the mint workshops was taken over by Juan Rodríguez de Rodas who did not achieve the full official silver standard with his first productions (1649-1651) and had to countermark those coins with a crown (see Figure 9). Finally, to end the confusion and the crisis and restore confidence in the Potosi coins, the designs were modified according to the Decree of December 22, 1650. On the obverse came the coat of arms of Castile flanked with the mintmark P [Viceroyalty of Perú, but minted in the city of Potosí-*Editor*] and on the reverse there was the columns of Hercules on waves with 9 fields and the text PLVS VLTRA. The Potosi mint transitioned to the new design in 1652; by 1653 the design was fairly standardized as illustrated by the 1653 dated specimen (Figure 10).

The Countermark with the Golden Fleece (Figure 1)


The Spanish coin of 8 real had the same value of 48 stuyvers as the well-known patagon in the Low Countries. The silver bars and the Spanish 8 real coins were imported in large numbers into the Low Countries for payment of the army and supplies. The coins were then turned into local denominations such as ducats and patagons by the local mints. The fraud in the silver content could not simply be determined on sight. Since 1647, regulations of Philip IV laid down that the 8 real pieces had to be checked and coins not complying with the official standards, such as being too light or having a too low silver content or forgeries, had to be returned to the mint.

Literature

- Blanton, Herman. 2002. "Golden Fleece Countermarks on Spanish Cobs in the British Museum" in *Numismatics International Bulletin* Vol. 37, No. 1 January 2002, pp. 6-15. Dallas: Numismatics International. Available on internet: <https://nnp.wustl.edu/library/book/522798> accessed January 29, 2018.
- . *Golden Fleece Countermarks on Spanish Cobs in the British Museum*, 2002. Available on internet at the website macuquina.com: http://macuquina.com/articles/golden_fleece_countermarks.pdf accessed January 29, 2018.
- Hoc, M. *Le cours et le marquage des réaux d'Espagne et de Mexique aux Pays-Bas*, PB/V (1960) pp. 285-294.
- Jovel, Francisco and Jovel, Roberto. 2001. "Los efectos del gran escándalo de Potosí en España." *Cuadernos de Numismática y Ciencia Histórica*, 117, Vol. XXVII, No. 117, Buenos Aires, 2002, pp. 17-26. Available on the internet at the website segoviamint.org: http://www.segoviamint.org/espanol/articulos/efectos_moneda_potosina_en_Espana.html
- Vanhoudt, Hugo. 2015. *The Coins of the Burgundian, Spanish and Austrian Low Countries and of the French and Dutch Periods*. Heverlee: 2015.

[Editor's note re countermark / counterstamp. There seems no universal agreement on the usage of the terms countermark and counterstamp. Countermark seems more appropriate when directly reading the original governmental decree:

... contremarquez avec ceste marque ...

Les Reaux d'Espagne & Mexico, estants contremarquez
avec cette marque,  le pourront eschiller pour
quarante & huit patars.

Can readers offer help by identifying the second countermark on the Kampen Taler?



In Search of the Martinique 1/2 Moco

David Wolfer, NI #2793

In 2017, a coin depicting what may be a great rarity of the West Indies series of cut currencies was offered by a French seller in an online auction. The coin represents a Martinique quarter segment cut from a Spanish colonial 4 reales of Charles III (rather than the more typical Spanish colonial 8 reales); an elusive coin only presented in a line drawing by Zay and “untraced” by Pridmore. The recent sighting and the uncommon denomination it represents inspired the research that follows.

Background

On September 1, 1797, an ordinance was enacted on the island of Martinique by the English governor to cut Spanish 4 and 8 reales coins of high intrinsic value into quartered segments for use as small change. Each was rated at 1-1/2 escalins [22-1/2 sous] and 3 escalins [45 sous], respectively. The Spanish provincial 2 reales, a debased silver coin commonly referred to as the pistareen, was also included in this legislation. It was cut into thirds and rated at 1 escalin [15 sous]. Legislation required the use of a uniquely shaped cutter that left crenated (scalloped) cut edges designed to deter against unlawful clipping and filing.

The only coinage authorized by the above-mentioned legislation that may not have seen regular use was the quarter segment of the Spanish half dollar [1-1/2 escalin], colloquially referred to as the half moco. Several mitigating factors might have conspired to limit, possibly negate altogether, this specific coin’s production and subsequent availability.

Since domestic manufacturing on Martinique was virtually nonexistent, most of the island’s provisions and all luxury goods had to be imported from overseas, with shippers demanding sound currencies in payment for their merchandise. This contributed to a steady outflow of specie.

Concurrently, the debased gold standard then in effect throughout the Lesser Antilles was also acting to drive away undervalued silver.¹ As a result, little silver coinage remained in the hands of the islanders for their daily use. Official cutting, countermarking and overvaluation of available stock reflects the extraordinary measures taken by local authorities to retain what little coinage was left.

Even in the best of times, the bulk of the silver coins trading through the region consisted of the ubiquitous Spanish colonial 8 reales (a silver dollar-sized coin minted at various locations in the New World) and debased pistareens from the Spanish homeland. The Spanish colonial 4 reales was less frequently encountered in Caribbean trade. This was due to Spanish monetary policies that encouraged production of large quantities of 8 reales for international trade while providing minor coinage only as

¹ “By 1798 the Leeward Islands were left with a circulatory medium consisting exclusively of light Joes and a minute quantity of worn and obsolete silver coins.” Chalmers p. 73. The Windward Islands, of which Martinique is included, had even greater difficulty attracting Spanish colonial silver, since vessels sailing from the Central and South American mainland faced the slow and tedious task of sailing upwind to reach this island group.

needed for their colonial economies. This point may have escaped the consideration of Martinique administrators involved in drafting the new legislation of 1797.²

Another potential limitation to the 1/2 moco denomination is offered by Pridmore:

HALF DOLLAR. No cut 1/4 segment of the half dollar has been traced by the writer and the illustration is taken from Zay³. Considering the difficulty that would arise in determining a cut 1/4 part of a 1/2 dollar when tendered alone from the similar segment of the dollar, it is doubtful if the 1/2 dollar was cut in this manner for general circulation.⁴

Pridmore also questioned the likelihood of an even smaller Martinique denomination mentioned by Zay in 1893 but found to be undocumented in the British legislation.

E. Zay⁵ also records and illustrates a line drawing of a cut segment which he describes as a 1/12 part of a Spanish 1/2 dollar. This has the cut edges crenated and is claimed by Zay to be a half escalin value of Martinique. The Act does not provide for this denomination and no further specimen has been traced. A cut 1/12 part of a half dollar would be a most unusual mutilation for such a small value in silver and the piece recorded by Zay was more likely to have been a modern concoction.

Jean Mazard's *Histoire Monétaire et Numismatique des Colonies et de L'Union Française* was published in 1953. Citing Zay, Guilloteau and the Cabinet des Médailles de la Bibliothèque Nationale [BnF], Mazard reiterated Zay's work as it relates to the Martinique series of cut coins, in addition to reusing Zay's line drawings for both purported segments cut from a 4 reales host (Mazard, PLANCHE IV, #75 & #77, respectively).⁶ It would appear the general consensus among numismatists at the time of Mazard's publication was that both the 1/2 moco and 1/2 escalin pieces existed and were authentic.

But opinions Pridmore set forth in 1965 must have led to the re-evaluation of at least one of these denominations. By the time Gadoury-Cousinié published *Monnaies Coloniales Françaises* in 1979, the questionable 1/12th cut 4 reales coin [1/2 escalin] had been removed from their Martinique listings. This omission supports Pridmore's contention that the denomination was nothing more than a concocted fake.

Inexplicably, Zay's original line drawing representing the 1/4 cut 4 reales [1/2 moco] coin was again copied into the Gadoury-Cousinié catalog⁷. We might have expected at least one physical example of the 1/2 moco coin to have come to light by this later date but that doesn't appear to have been the case.

² While discussing similar legislation on the island of St. Lucia in 1813, Pridmore reiterates this point; "It would seem, as in some other islands, that when the terms of the Ordinance were actually put into effect, ... a sufficient quantity of the half and quarter dollars were not available, ..." (p. 177).

³ Zay, p. 211. "2° Des pièces d'argent provenant de demi-gourdes, coupées en quatre parties (43) ..."

⁴ Pridmore, p. 244.

⁵ Zay, p. 211. *La petite pièce, coupure d'un 12° de demi-gourde (45), valait un demi-escalin ou 7 sous 6 den.*

⁶ Mazard, p. 144, #75 & #77.

⁷ Gadoury-Cousinié, p. 261, #20

Neither W. D. Craig's *Coins of the World 1750-1850* or the Krause/Mishler Catalog list the Martinique 1/2 moco as a viable denomination. Since Craig's 1st edition came out in 1966, he had undoubtedly studied Pridmore's work and may have concluded that listing the 1/2 moco was unwarranted, with Krause/Mishler appearing to follow suit.

Auction Revelations

An initial purview of numismatic literature was unable to provide any authentic photographic images of the Martinique 1/2 moco. Therefore, the investigation was compelled to turn to past auction catalogs for examples to study.

The Howard D. Gibbs Collection/Hans Schulman Auction, held March 18-19, 1966, contains a 1/2 moco listing. This coin was described by Mr. Gibbs, as follows:

'Martinique Silver' Lot #1586 Crenulated quarter of a 4 Reales. Mexico 1793 valued at 22 Sous 6 Deniers

No image accompanies the lot. However, we are lucky that Ken Eckardt, a specialist in the West Indian series, preserved a "rubbing" impression of this particular coin from the Gibbs Sale (see Figure 1).



Figure 1
Rubbing of Gibbs Sale lot #1586, obv. & rev. (not actual size)
 Image courtesy of Ken Eckardt

In his evaluation of the piece, Ken noted a misalignment of the cut to the coat of arms. Instead of a 6:00 to 9:00 and 9:00 to 3:00 segmentation (the standard cutting protocol found on authentic Martinique mocos) “...the coin [is] cut along a line 7:30 to 1:30 and 10:30 to 4:30.” This misalignment bodes poorly for the authenticity of the piece.

In addition, there exists the possibility that the piece was cut from the portrait side rather than the coat of arms side, another potential violation of protocol associated with the Martinique series of cut coins. Unfortunately, working from a rubbing impression does not offer the detail necessary for positive identification. Without reasonable images or the actual coin in hand, little more was gleaned from this inspection.

Revelations of a St. Lucia Host

The opportunity to review a broad range of images from the extraordinary West Indian collection of Edward Roehrs—sold on two separate dates by the English auction firm Dix Noonan Webb (DNW); September 28, 2010, and November 17, 2011—fortunately provides some breadth to our search. If we dig deep into this sale, a possible example of a Martinique 1/2 moco is found utilized as an under-type for a St. Lucia 1-1/2 escalin; a crenated quarter cut from a Spanish *provincial* (Madrid) 4 reales, countermarked with two incuse annulets (lot #244, weight: 2.90 g, see Figure 2).⁸

On October 8, 1811, a decree emerged from the St. Lucia Court of Appeals⁹ outlining steps to mitigate forgeries of an officially countermarked series of coins that had used annulet (circular) punchmarks as designators of value when stamped into crenate-cut segments of Spanish 4 reales and pistareens. The fact that the Martinique 1/2 moco was the focus of this ordinance clearly suggests a local presence and denominational usage.

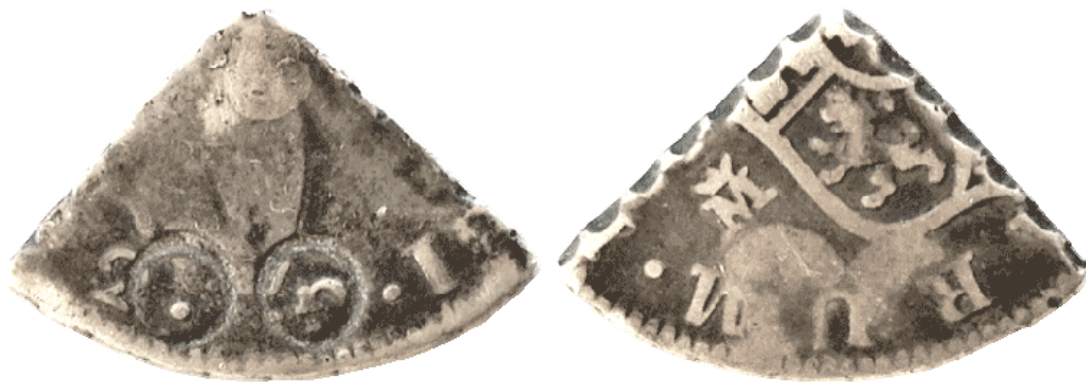


Figure 2
Roehrs Collection, Part 1, DNW September 28, 2010, Lot 244, obv. & rev.
 Images from private collection

However, using this particular St. Lucia currency as a source for representative examples of official Martinique 1/2 mocos may be misguided, since the annulet series

⁸ Ken Eckardt also located a *manuscript rubbing* from the Gibbs Sale of an un-plated St. Lucia 1-1/2 escalin, lot #1782, that was of such poor quality as to provide no value to this study. He was unsuccessful at tracking down rubbings of a second un-plated 1-1/2 escalin example from the same sale, lot #1781.

⁹ See Pridmore, Appendix 23 (p. 313) “...Translated from the French decree published by E. Zay... p, 217....

reveals a fundamental inconsistency in the host segments receiving the countermark that calls into question the origin of any 4 reales segment emanating from this locale.

The purpose of the St. Lucia 1811 decree was to eliminate confusion stemming from valuations associated with the annulet countermarking of two crenate-cut denominations derived from Spanish 4 reales hosts; the 1-1/2 escalin [our 1/2 moco subject coin] and a 2 escalins coin.

The 2 escalins (30 Sols) is described in contemporary St. Lucia documents as a cut third of a Spanish 4 reales coin. Unfortunately, no Martinique legislation was ever enacted authorizing this denomination. Evidently, at some point between 1797 and 1811, 1/3-cut crenated 4 reales segments appeared in the money supply of St. Lucia, conventionally valued at 30 sols.

Pridmore appears to have overlooked the origin of this denomination in his discussion of the annulet punched St. Lucia currencies.

Since the 2 escalin cut segment seems to have arrived out of the blue, it tends to cast a shadow of doubt by simple association on the authenticity of any 1/2 moco segments also bearing the annulet punchmarks of St. Lucia.

In light of the fact that a seemingly unauthorized currency was known to be openly trading on St. Lucia, we need to ask ourselves where the source for 1/2 moco and 2 escalin hosts used in the St Lucia annulet series of 1811 actually originated. There may be a greater probability that these cut host pieces were derived from counterfeit operations rather than official channels, particularly when viewed in the larger context of historical events playing out in the region at the time. Chalmers writes:

*With the increased production of rum and molasses in the United States, and **the stoppage of supplies of Mexican coins owing to the revolutionary war**, the Leeward Islands had been losing, since about 1810, their stock of the aliquot parts of the dollar. To meet this difficulty, the Islands had generally followed the lead of Antigua, and assigned to the pistareen the exaggerated currency value of 2 s[hillings], i.e. 2-9ths of a dollar, instead of 1/5th of a dollar, as in other West Indian Islands. Consequently, the pistareen may be regarded as forming the bulk of the silver, if not the entire metallic currency, at the close of this second period.¹⁰*

With traditional sources of silver from Mexico impeded by that country's struggle for independence, a previously minor currency import trade from Spain appears to have gained significance around this time. As pistareens from Spain were brought into the region, provincial 4 reales may very well have tagged along.

The Roehrs / DNW St. Lucia 1-1/2 escalin specimen of 1811 displays two annulet countermarks punched into a quartered portion of a 4 reales coin minted in Spain, not colonial America. When viewed in the context of Chalmer's revelations, the existence of a provincial rather than pillared coin cut to replicate a Martinique 1/2 moco would seem to fit the historical narrative.¹¹

¹⁰ Chalmers, p. 76

¹¹ Interestingly, another St. Lucia "1-1/2 escalin" can be found plated in Mazard (see Planche V, #106). It also utilizes a Spanish provincial host. There are questions as to whether this piece was actually cut from a 4 reales host or that of a 2 reales pistareen, since Mazard's

Another specimen of the St. Lucia annulet-punched 1-1/2 escalin has recently surfaced in DNW's September 25, 2018, sale of *The Lyall Collection of Cut and Countermarked Coins* (Lot #5194, 3.33g). It, too, presents a 1/4 cut 4 reales segment excised from a Spanish provincial 4 reales host.

This evidence strongly implicates contemporary counterfeiters. If truly official 1/2 mocos from Martinique, the Roehrs and Lyall 1/2 moco hosts would more than likely have been cut from Spanish colonial silver, not 4 reales produced in Spain. While not at all damning to the annulet punchmark's authenticity,¹² there is a high degree of probability that the host coin is not an official Martinique 1/2 moco.

Why? From 1797 to 1801, Martinique utilized colonial silver to produce its mocos. Proof of this statement is verified by visually inspecting authentic mocos. Colonial pillar type hosts are exclusively represented within surviving moco stock. We would expect this to be true of any official 1/2 mocos originating from the same legislation.

Official St. Lucia annulet punchmarks were being applied to crenated segments of 4 reales coins and pistareens. If the *provincial* 4 reales was indeed being cut illegally to produce host segments for this official currency (or even legally cut by way of some currently undocumented St. Lucia authorization), then using the annulet countermark to identify authentic Martinique 1/2 mocos has no value. Officials of St. Lucia may have been allowing valuation changes to illicit fabrications or locally approved products, not authentic Martinique 1/2 mocos.¹³

The French Dealer's 1/2 Moco

This investigation began with the mention of a 1/2 moco specimen auctioned online in 2017. Although inaccurately described by the French seller as originating from Guadeloupe ("*Guadeloupe coin coupée silver poids 3gr20*"), the description and photos included within the listing provided enough information to establish the possibility that a Martinique 1/2 moco had finally emerged from hiding.

description of the piece (p.146 #106) confusingly indicates both possibilities. [*"Quart de double real, bord dentelé, contremarqué de 2 bagues -valeur 1 escalin et demi ou 22s. 6d."* (Quarter of a 2 real, dentilated edge, countermarked with 2 annulets- value: 1-1/2 escalin or 22 sous, 6 deniers).] Both Pridmore and Gadoury-Cousinié recycled Mazard's photo for their St. Lucia 1-1/2 escalin listing, while identifying the host as derived from a 1/2 moco. Again, the identification is uncertain without verifiable size and weight metrics for this specific coin. It is also the reason the specimen was not included in our study.

¹² Illegally cutting any silver coin makes the newly created segments counterfeit, and yet, if later countermarked with the official annulet punch, the false segments become legitimized for local circulation; hence, an "authorized" forgery. If, as Chalmers suggests, provincial silver was essentially the only available host currency to be had at the time, its presence may indeed provide a contemporary indicator of authenticity to these St. Lucia annulet countermarked coins.

¹³ Since we are bereft of documentation from St. Lucia outlining specific currency authorizations, it is not known for sure whether the partitioning of 4 reales into thirds and quarters was officially sanctioned by this island entity, but the math does work for both denominations. With an 8 reales coin worth 9 livres, or 180 sous [1 livre = 20 sous], a 4 reales coin was worth 90 sous. A third of a 4 reales coin came to 30 sous; the stated value of the St. Lucia 2 escalin denomination [1 escalin = 15 sous], and a quartered segment would equal 22 sous 6 deniers.

As luck would have it, this writer was afforded an opportunity to review and photograph the piece after its sale. Figures 3 and 4 show the obverse and reverse of the French offering, respectively.



Figure 3: Obverse and Figure 4: Reverse

A cursory inspection leaves no question that the segment was created from a legitimate Spanish colonial pillar 4 reales of King Charles III. Date, assayer and mint of origin are unknown; however, the coin would have been issued at least a decade prior to the 1797 ordinance. The sizing of the piece is correct in that if joined with three other equal segments, the diameter correlates to that of an uncut Spanish colonial 4 reales coin.

The coin's weight was listed and verified at 3.20 grams. This weight meets expectations; the official weight of a Spanish colonial 4 reales of this period is 13.54 g, putting the ideal weight for a quarter section at 3.385g. Considering the wear evident on the segment's surface and the potentially imprecise fractional slicing of a whole coin, the 3.2 g weight is within an acceptable range.

Figure 5 represents an edge view of the crenated cut from the French example. Figure 6 shows an angled view of the cut from the obverse side.

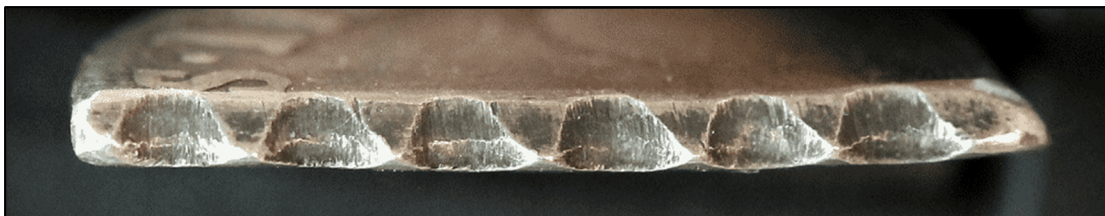


Figure 5



Figure 6

Both images reveal relatively sharp detailing of the cut surfaces, particularly on high points of the crenated edge. The lack of wear on the cut edge of the French seller's coin is disconcerting in one regard. This coin could never have survived circulation on Martinique and surrounding islands after 1797 without displaying readily distinguishable signs of relentless use when viewed today, particularly on the exposed high points of the crenated edge.

Another detail begs our notice. The specimen was cut from the portrait side rather than coat of arms side of the host coin. It is believed today that the vertical center of the coat-of-arms acted as an easy reference for workers tasked with quartering the currency. This belief is derived from observing that all authentic Martinique mocos followed this cutting protocol. We would not expect the procedure to change with the 1/2 mocos.

Based upon the combined diagnostics of cutting disorientation and lack of wear, it is highly likely this coin is a fraud.

Zay's French Museum Piece

In an effort to follow up on Mazard's citation of a 1/2 moco specimen residing in the National Library of France (BnF), a request for information was sent to the BnF. Jerome Jambu, the museum's foreign currency curator, kindly responded. He verified the existence of a Martinique 1/2 moco in the BnF collection and added this comment: *'This is not exactly the one designed [line drawn] by Zay in his book but it is actually part of his collection, which he bequeathed in 1909 as Inventory No.: BNF, MMA, Zay 445.'* Other data provided by Mr. Jambu describes a coin cut from a Spanish colonial 4 reales of Potosi, Bolivia; weight: 2.95 g. (*Moco d' 1/4 de 1/2 Gourde, ND (1797), 2.95 g., De 4 réaux espagnols [Potosi]*).

High resolution images of the specimen were eventually procured from which close inspection reveals another Martinique 1/2 moco with controversial surfaces.

As with the Gibbs and French dealer specimens, we find the crenated cut misaligned to the vertical center line of the Spanish coat-of-arms. This error of alignment on the BnF specimen is cause for concern.

Again, no wear is observed on high points or reverse edge of the BnF piece. The lack of wear adds another potential disqualifier of official manufacture.

Furthermore, the BnF specimen exhibits an unusual angular indent cut atypical of cutting blade patterns used to produce authentic mocos. This same cutter style is present

on a Martinique moco offered by Heritage Auctions in a September 2013 auction (see Figures 7-9). It is telling that the Heritage Sale specimen exhibits all the negative traits of a modern forgery; lack of wear after cutting, fissuring along a heavily rolled reverse edge, crenated indents totaling seven or more. Without a doubt, identical cut edge diagnostics link the cutter used to produce this highly questionable moco to the BnF 1/2 moco specimen.



Figure 7 and Figure 8 (image brightened)



Figure 9

Figures 7-9: Modern forgery of Martinique moco displaying angular inside cut. Reverse edge style matches the BnF 1/2 moco specimen. Heritage Auctions Sept. 2013 Sale #3026 / Lot #25270 (NGC #3590137-008, *ex. Huntington*). Images courtesy of Heritage Auctions.

Collectively, the problems described above make it difficult to extend to the BnF 1/2 moco specimen any blessing of legitimacy. In my opinion, it should be disregarded as representative of an authentic Martinique 1/2 moco.

An ANS 1/2 Moco Specimen

Another Martinique half moco specimen was found residing in the American Numismatic Society Collection. This coin can be inspected online in the ANS Mantis database; however, the ANS was gracious enough to allow the use of their images below (Figures 10-12).



Figure 10 (obv) and Figure 11 (rev)

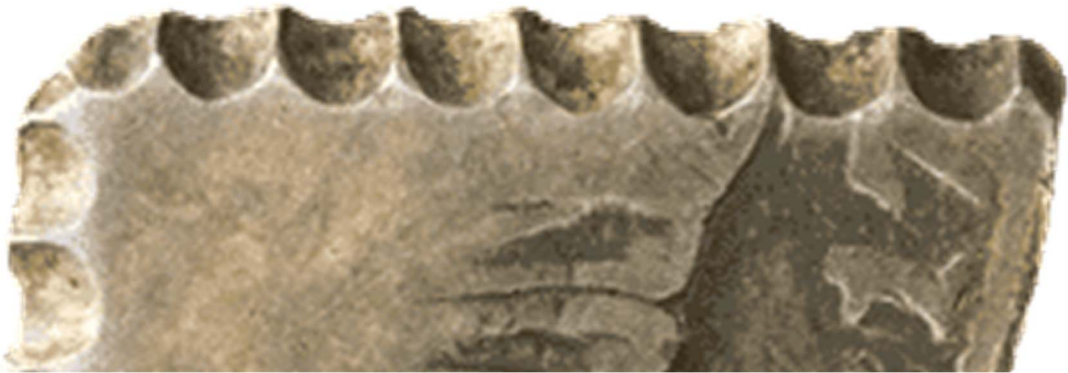


Figure 12

Figures. 10-12: ANS #1923.51.10; Martinique 22 Sous 9 Deniers (Half Moco) 3.34 g. obverse, reverse and closeup edge respectively. *Courtesy of the American Numismatic Society*

The coin itself presents nicely; minimal blemishes on the host, well-balanced symmetrical crenations, a partial date; all the attributes any numismatist would be proud to display in a representative collection of West Indian cut coinage. Yet, several signs invite suspicion.

The lack of wear exhibited on the cut edges of the ANS 1/2 moco specimen, although inconclusive as a singular diagnostic, provides an immediate cautionary indicator.

As in the case with the French dealer's 1/2 moco discussed above, irrefutable evidence of a spurious origin comes from the fact that the ANS piece has been cut from the portrait side of the 8 reales host. This violation of standard cutting practice again begs for immediate dismissal of authenticity.

The Question of Wear

One unifying detail found on all three 1/2 moco examples subjected to our visual review, the ANS, BnF and French seller's specimen, is a lack of contemporary wear on the cut edge. If not for other manifestations of fraud, it could be plausibly argued that these coins were simply removed from circulation prior to sustaining noticeable

evidence of wear; a possibility that should always be considered as one progresses through the various stages of authentication. We need to remember, however, that original coins were local emergency issues of which patterns, test strikes and presentation pieces, along with high-grade specimens set aside for collectors, were just not much of a consideration at the time.¹⁴

It is my belief that any legitimate issue or contemporary counterfeit issued before the middle of the 19th century would have been used primarily as a high-demand vehicle of trade within the region's island communities and, as such, will inevitably display the evidence of wear and tear associated with its specific monetary role.

With that being said, we can always hope for a cut piece that somehow escaped the maelstrom of contemporary circulation and survived to this day with pristine cut edges. In fact, just such a coin would be an important discovery when considering the knowledge gained from its inspection. But a number of other factors, namely diagnostics that consistently indict pieces displaying a lack of wear, continue to remind us of the risks associated with embracing high-grade examples.

A viable approach to rooting out counterfeits in certain West Indies cut and countermarked issuances is to extrapolate diagnostic data from authentic coins displaying contemporary wear and/or other indicators of local use and then apply these identifiers to less worn examples. This was done with the Martinique moco in an earlier investigation¹⁵ and reproducible diagnostics were the result. Unfortunately, no worn examples of the 1/2 moco utilizing a pillared host have been located to date, thus negating application of the above approach to this particular investigation.

Closing Thoughts

Although an authentic Martinique 1/2 moco has yet to be substantiated today, contemporary documents support the idea of an official presence. An English edict issued a year after the moco was authorized reaffirms valuations for the group as originally outlined, while specifically including the 1/2 moco in its readdress:

Martinique Proclamation dated August 23, 1798 (excerpts)

ART. I. The ratio of gold, at standard, of the Portuguese coins called moidores, to silver at standard, of the Spanish coins, called pistre-gourdes (sic), shall henceforth be fixed in the colony as one is to sixteen and a fraction (equivalent approximately to one fifteenth).

III. Following this basis, the piastre-gourde, weighing 7 gros, shall henceforth be of value 9 livres or 12 escalins.

*IV. All fractions of the piastre-gourde shall follow the same proportion. Thus the quarter gourde [moco] shall be valued at 2 livres 5 sous, or 3 escalins; **the***

¹⁴ Pridmore theorizes on the possibility of patterns while discussing the 1813 cut emissions of St. Lucia (pg. 178); "Thus, despite the terms of the Ordinance, the cutting and stamping of the half and quarter dollar does not appear to have been carried out as a general measure, although perhaps some few pattern specimens were actually cut and stamped in the initial stages, but not issued for circulation." To date, patterns of cut West Indian currency have yet to emerge.

¹⁵ See the author's article *The Martinique Moco- Issues of Identity*, NI Bulletin Volume 53 Nos 7/8, pp. 113-136.

coin previously called 20 sous [1/2 moco] shall be valued at 1 livre 2 sous 6 deniers, or 1-1/2 escalins; and the one previously called 10 sous shall be received at 11 sous 3 deniers or 3 tempes.¹⁶

It is tempting to use this edict as proof of the 1/2 moco's existence, yet, nowhere within the text does it claim that the currency was actually circulating. Once again, we find ourselves in documentary limbo.

In a well-researched paper titled "West Indian Coinage - Some New Discoveries," Bob Lyall offers an opinion on the matter.

Fred Pridmore doubted that the cut quarters of the 4 real with crenated edges, authorized in the Ordinance of 1st September 1797, were ever issued; this was because of the difficulty that would arise in identifying the difference between them and cut quarters of the 8 reals. However, despite the logic of that view, it is now proven that they were issued because, in the Guadeloupe decree of the 6th May 1811, these coins are mentioned as being allowed for legal circulation in Guadeloupe until 1st September that year.

Lyall's conclusion would be easier to embrace if a fourteen year timespan wasn't standing between the 1/2 moco's original date of issuance and the Guadeloupe Article 7 directive. Today we see physical evidence of what appear to be either fraudulent or locally authorized 1/2 mocos circulating in 1811 but the same cannot be said for authentic Martinique specimens.

As cited by Lyall, the 7th Article of the Guadeloupe Decree of May 6, 1811, (actually dated 24th May 1811) states,

... even gourdain, commonly called mocos and half mocos of Martinique and other islands under the dominion of His Majesty, in circulation in the colony, although weighing far less than those of this colony, being present there in fairly considerable quantities, will be received at their nominal value until 1st September next, when they will no longer be legal tender but will be accepted by goldsmiths for only their intrinsic value.¹⁷

Quantities of lightweight 1/2 mocos described in the Guadeloupe decree imply a more sinister origin than any earlier official issuance from Martinique. It is also telling that no mention is made regarding the possibility of official manufacture of crenated hosts on St. Lucia. This omission tends to support the idea that the crenate-cut 1/2 mocos found in circulation at the time were derived from illicit sources rather than official channels.

Surprisingly, the inundation of forgeries did not stop Guadeloupe administrators from rescinding the May 24, 1811, decree approximately ninety days later when a dearth of small change continued to negatively impact local trade.

Given that the mocos which have been circulating in the colony up till now and which, by Article 7 of our regulation fixing the value of coins, dated 24th May last, were no longer being received, dating from the 1st Sept of the current year, other than for their intrinsic value, continue to be necessary for internal

¹⁶ Pridmore, Appendix 57, p. 354

¹⁷ R. Lyall, *West Indian Coinage - Some New Discoveries*, p. 11.

needs because it has not been possible to replace them with a proportionate quantity of mocos cut and stamped in this colony.

We decree that the said mocos shall continue to circulate as coin in exception to the provision expressed in the said article of the regulation previously cited.

*21st day of August 1811*¹⁸

If the 1/2 moco currency mentioned in the May 1811 decree and included by implication in the August 1811 rescission consisted of circulating counterfeits at the time, the official about-face truly signifies an extraordinary measure of desperation by Guadeloupe administrators to keep small change circulating in their colony. This would coincide with a general acceptance of the same probable forgeries on the island of St. Lucia.

As fascinating as it is to consider that both locations may have knowingly legalized the circulation of fraudulent copies of the Martinique 1/2 moco (and Martinique mocos, in Guadeloupe's case), the information in and of itself provides no direct link to the subject of this study.

Unfortunately, all the disqualifiers presented herein leave the investigation at an impasse, since no other applicable documentation or irrefutable physical evidence has been uncovered to unequivocally support the existence of an authentic Martinique 1/2 moco.

If a specimen has indeed survived today amidst all the lingering doubt, we must truly admire the tenacity of this legendary little coin to remain hidden for so long. It may have once traded in island markets, only to disappear under an onslaught of debased forgeries. That would relegate it to a small group of 'lost' coins found within the West Indian series that contemporary documents tantalize our imaginations with and sharpers offer us fantasies of, but exhaustive research fails to provide the proof of authenticity needed to assuage these persistent questions of legitimacy. *Caveat emptor, caveat venditor.*

Acknowledgements

Substantial upgrades to content were received by way of ongoing collaboration with Ken Eckardt, who provided not only a wealth of knowledge on the subject but also help in tracking down images useful to the presentation.

Sources

American Numismatic Society/Mantis Collections Database Online

<http://numismatics.org/search/>, accessed May 31, 2018.

Chalmers, Sir Robert. 1893. *History of Currency in the British Colonies*. London: Eyre and Spottiswoode.

Craig, William D. 1976. *Coins of the World 1750-1850, 3rd Edition*. Racine, Wisconsin: Western Publishing, Inc.

Dix Noonan Webb, *The Collection of Cut and Countermarked Coins formed by the Late Edward Roehrs*. London: Dix Noonan Webb, auctions, September 28, 2010, and /November 17, 2011. http://www.dnw.co.uk/auction-archive/special-collections/forward.php?specialcollection_id=136 accessed May 31, 2018.

¹⁸ Ibid., p. 11.

- Dix Noonan Webb, *The Lyall Collection of Cut and Countermarked Coins*. London: Dix Noonan Webb, auctions, September 25, 2018.
- Gadoury-Cousinié. 1979. *Monnaies Coloniales Françaises 1670-1980*. Baden-Baden: Franz W. Wesel, Druckerei und Verlag.
- Krause, Chester L. and Clifford Mishler. 1991. *Standard Catalog of World Coins, Deluxe ANA Centennial Edition*. Iola, Wisconsin: Krause Publications.
- Lyall, R. 1998. *West Indian Coinage- Some New Discoveries*. London: Spink, 23 pp.
- Mazard, Jean. 1953. *Historie Monétaire et Numismatique des Colonies et de L'Union Française 1670-1952*. Paris: Émile Bourgey.
- Pridmore, F. 1965. *The Coins of the British Commonwealth of Nations, Part 3- West Indies*. London: Spink and Sons, Ltd.
- Schulman, Hans M. F. *Howard D. Gibbs Collection of Counterstamped, Necessity and Siege Coins of the Americas*. New York: Coin Auction March 18 & 19, 1966.
- Wolfer, David. "The Martinique Moco- Issues of Identity" in *NI Bulletin* Volume 53 Nos. 7/8. July/August 2018.
- Zay, Ernest. 1892. *Histoire Monétaire des Colonies Françaises: d'après les documents officiels*. Paris: J. Montorier.



From Your NI Board of Governors

5 September 2018

Whereas, from October of 2005, HERMAN BLANTON has faithfully and diligently fulfilled the important duties of Bulletin Editor, to the great advantage of NUMISMATICS INTERNATIONAL, and the satisfaction of the Governors and the membership at large

and whereas, the aforesaid HERMAN BLANTON has communicated to the Governors his intention to resign that office, following publication of the March—April 2019 Bulletin

therefore, on behalf of the Corporation, the Governors wish to express their thanks to the aforesaid HERMAN BLANTON for his service, and have ordered this Resolution to be printed in the Bulletin for that purpose

and furthermore, for the same purpose, the Governors do grant to the aforesaid HERMAN BLANTON an honorary Life Membership, effective from this date.

Passed by unanimous consent.

For the Board,
CHRISTOPHER D CARSON, Secretary



Commemorative Medal, 400 Year Synod of Dordrecht 400 Year Reformation – Ode to the Synod

Paul Oostervink, NI #2787

Copyright 2019 Paul Oostervink

From November 10, 2018, to May 29, 2019 Dordrecht—or Dordt as it was referred to in English at the time—celebrates under the name Ode to the Synod. The celebration is to last 180 days which corresponds to the Synod at that time and precisely 400 years later. Dordrecht publicizes the importance of the Synod with programs aimed for a wide audience. Inhabitants, cultural and ecclesiastical institutions organize many activities such as exhibitions, conferences, films, concerts, lectures and debates, theatre, walking tours, murals and different special cultural projects.

The municipality of Dordrecht commissioned a contest among local professional visual artists for the design of a contemporary Synod medal. From 15 entries the jury chose the design of Theun Okkerse (born Dordrecht, 1954). He designed a Synod medal in which past and present come together, inspired by the original medal that back then, in 1619, was handed out to all participants.

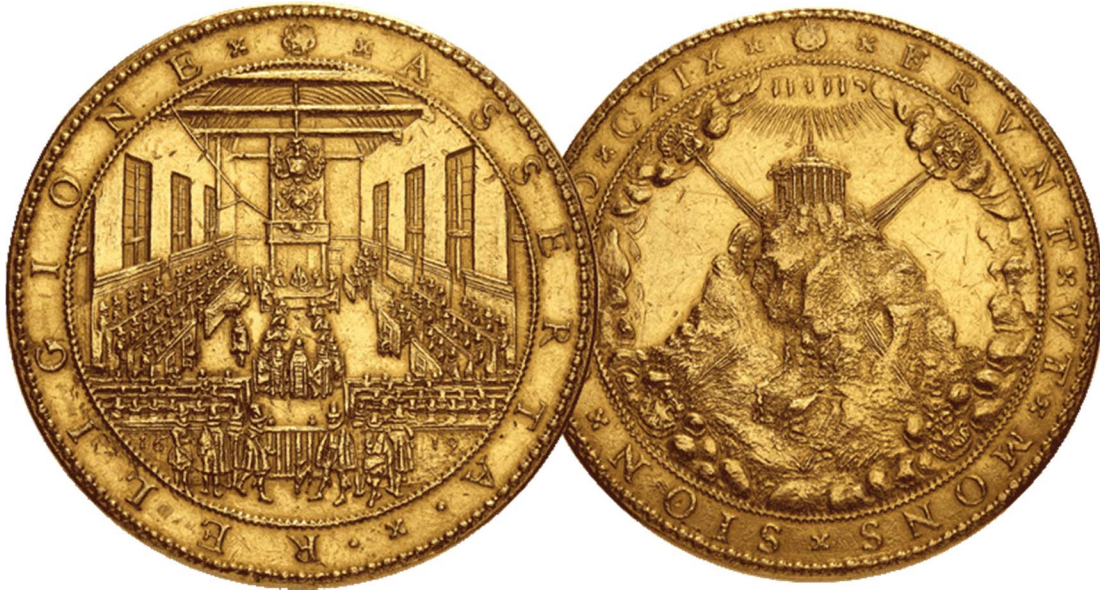


Figure 1

Gold Triumph medal of the Synod of Dordrecht – 1619¹ The Synod in session

Gold, 119.56 g, 12 h, diameter 58.6 mm. Medallist: Willem van Bylaer. Designer: François Schillemans / Daniel Heinsius. Technique: struck. Obverse inscription [rose] × ASSERTA • × • RELIGIONE × (the religion assured). Reverse inscription: [rose] × ERVNT × VT × MONS × SION × CIO × IO × CXIX × (they shall be as Mount Zion, 1619). Dordrechts Museum, Collection Huis van Gijn, Dordrecht,² Nr. 4375. Reference: v. Loon II, p. 105.

In 1618/1619 Dordrecht was for six months the center of Europe. More than a hundred professors, politicians and pastors from home and abroad, came together for a unique church meeting in Dordrecht: the Synod of Dordrecht.



Figure 2

Commemorative medal design 400 Year Synod of Dordrecht by Theun Okkerse³

Theun Okkerse designed his medal with a look at the heavenly and earthly. We see a group of men in early 17th-century costumes in conversation while some women look on. They regard the heavenly and act accordingly by the name of God in Hebrew letters among them. The point of view is from the bottom, as if we look through a glass ceiling. This transparent oval is also on the reverse of the medal, but now is the view from the sky facing down where Dordrecht situated across the water.

After the opening in the Augustinian Church and the start of the program “Ode to the Synod” on November 10, 2018, King Willem-Alexander received the first gold commemorative medal 400 Year Synod of Dordrecht.⁴



Figure 3

Commemorative Medal 400 Year Synod of Dordrecht Gold 585/000, 59 g, 45 mm, thickness about 3 mm. Edge: smooth.

Designer: Theun Okkerse. Medallist: Lei Lennaerts. Technique: struck. Client: municipality of Dordrecht and the Dordrechts Museum. Obverse image: from below a

transparent oval with a group of men in early 17th-century costumes, in conversation while some women look on. Worn by the name of God in Hebrew letters among them. Above the coat of arms of the Republic of the United Netherlands and under the coat of arms of Dordrecht. Obverse inscription: SYNODE van DORDRECHT 1618 ' 19 – coat of arms – 2018 ' 19 (SYNOD OF DORDRECHT 1618 ' 19 -coat of arms- 2018 ' 19) Reverse image: from above in transparent oval Dordrecht on the water. Reverse inscription: IDENTITEIT / TAAL / GASTVRIJHEID/ DORDRECHT (Identity/ Language/ Hospitality/ Dordrecht).

Of the commemorative medal 3 Gold copies were struck, 25 Silver (835/000, 40 g, 45 mm, thickness about 3 mm) and 500 Bronze (37 g, 45 mm, thickness about 3 mm). The second gold copy was intended for the Dordrechts Museum and the third for a private collection. Hereinafter the King initiated on the square of Het Hof of the Netherlands a symbolic robotic arm to decoratively (calligraphy) write the States Bible over the nine month period.



Figure 4
Robotarm

An important decision taken in the Synod was to officially order a translation of the Bible into Dutch from the original Aramaic, Hebrew and Greek languages. After years of translation work the first *Statenbijbel* (States Bible) was printed in 1637.

To honor the fourth centennial of the Synod, the German art collective “Robotlab” programmed a robot that will write out the complete biblical text of the *Statenvertaling* (States Translation). Just like a monk in a scriptorium who transcribes each individual character, the robot writes in calligraphy over three million letters in real ink on a roll of paper of more than 1000 meters length.

With its task [bible] in bios⁵ the robot stands between human handwriting and mechanical production of the printing press. This art installation uses writing to combine religion and scientific rationalism. It raises questions concerning belief and

technological progress and thus focuses on the connection of two cultural systems that are fundamental to society.

Further that day the King opened in the Dordrechts Museum the exhibition Work, Pray & Admire.⁶ A new perspective on art and Calvinism by a special Bible with the Royal Bibles that are part of the exhibition. Work, Pray & Admire shows the relationship between Calvinism and art in a broad context. In addition to paintings of Bol, Rembrandt, Van Gogh and Mondriaan it regards literature, music and Church architecture. This exhibition is part of the program with many other initiatives Ode to the Synod.

Special thanks to Lei Lennaerts and Geesken Bloemendal – ter Horst for the help and cooperation.

¹ *NI Bulletin*, Volume 52 Nos. 1 / 2, January/February 2017, “The National Synod of Dordrecht-1619,” pp. 3-12.

² Dordrechts Museum, Collection Huis van Gijn, Dordrecht. Photo with permission of the Dordrechts Museum.

³ Theun Okkerse, Dordrecht. Photo with permission. The bronze medal is for sale at the Dordrechts Museum (info@dordrechtmuseum.nl). De Grote Kerk of Dordrecht (<https://www.grotekerk-dordrecht.nl>), Het Hof van Nederland (<https://www.hethofvannederland.nl>) and Tourist Office VVV Dordrecht (<https://www.vvvdordrecht.nl>), all sites accessed November 25, 2018.

⁴ The medal is included in the Koninklijke Verzamelingen (Royal Collections) of the Noordeinde Palace in The Hague. <http://www.koninklijkeverzamelingen.nl/en/>

⁵ Bios means Basic Input/Output System, the first vital operating system that begins to work when a computer is being started up. Photo with permission. <https://www.synode400.nl>

⁶ Dordrechts Museum, exhibition ‘work, pray and admire,’ a new perspective on art & Calvinism (November 11, 2018 - May 26, 2019). <https://www.dordrechtmuseum.nl/tentoonstellingen/werkbidbewonder>

All web sites in these notes accessed November 25, 2018.



Errors and Corrections

In the previous edition (November/December 2018, Vol. 53, Nos. 11/12) the article “British Countermarks on French Silver Coins, Merchant Countermarked Silver Coins in Great Britain c. 1780-1830” by Eric C. Hodge, there is an error at p. 180, par. 6, reproduced below.

There are twenty seven examples of this countermark known from photographic evidence, from *l’an 5* (1796/7) to 1813, and all are on French 5 francs, eight being from the Republican era (Figure 1) and the other twenty from the Napoleonic period (Figures 3, 6 & 8).

The author sends this correction: *On page 180 of my article, 6th paragraph I state there are 27 known, 8 Republican and 20 Napoleonic. The total of 27 is correct. The split should be 6 Republican and 21 Napoleonic.*



Variety of Israeli New Sheqel 1988

Mike Davis, NI #2392

The Bank of Israel began introduction of the New Sheqel series in 1985. The values from 1 agora to 1 sheqel were issued beginning September 4, 1985. The New Sheqel illustrated below comes from Wikipedia.



New Sheqel, copper-nickel, 18 mm, 4 g.

According to the website *numista* the 1 (new) sheqel dated 1988 was produced in both Jerusalem (6,372,000) and Utrecht (14,004,000) with a total mintage of 20,376,000 pieces.

Two varieties of the 1988 (JES 5748), KM160, issue have been identified; a small date and large date. The large date variety has wider and bolder characters than the small date.



Large Date



Small Date

References

Numista. <https://en.numista.com/catalogue/pieces1076.html> accessed Oct 27, 2018,
Wikipedia | Israeli new shekel. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israeli_new_shekel
accessed Oct 27, 2018.

NI

Letter to the Editor

Eric Hodge writes: Thank you, once again, for a stimulating issue of the NI Bulletin (Nov/Dec 2018). I particularly enjoyed 'Illegal Protestant French Coinage struck at La Rochelle'. Something I knew nothing about previously and will certainly read again.

NI

Three Talers not in Davenport

Robert Ronus, NI #LM139

Dr. Davenport's volumes on the Talers of the world are still the standard work on the subject. It is extraordinarily comprehensive, the result of thousands of hours studying collections in museums around the world and auction catalogs. Nevertheless, there are still rare Talers missing. Three were for sale in the February 2018, Berlin auctions of Fritz Rudolf Künker, the leading German numismatic firm.

Two were Hildesheim coins in an auction of 150 rarities of the Lower Saxony region from the collection of Friedrich Popken (Auction 301, February 1, 2018). The first was a 1608 Reichstaler of Ernst of Bavaria, Bishop of Hildesheim (1573-1612).



Reichstaler of Ernst of Bavaria, Bishop of Hildesheim, 1608

Fritz Rudolf Künker, auction 301, February 1, 2018, lot 843

Unlisted in Davenport

Obv.: ✿ (rosette) ERNESTVS • D • G • AR • COL (ogne) • ELCT • EPS • LEOD (= Liège) • ADM (inistrator) • HILD • MON (= Münster) Inner legend: rosette ET • FREIS (ing) • PAL (atinate) • RE (= of the Rhine) • DVX • BA (varia) • AN (gria) • WES (tphalia) • ET • BVL (= Bouillon) ✿. Bust right in inner circle. Rev.: Circle of 16 arms of (clockwise from top): Cologne (cross), Hildesheim (divisions per pale), Freising (negro head), Malmedy Abbey (dragon), Westphalia (prancing horse), Bouillon (bar & Liège pillar, divided), Arnsberg (eagle), Hasbain (head?), Horn (3 horns), Looz (horizontal bars), Franchimont (3 lions rampant), Angria (3 waterlilies), Pfalz (lion rampant), Stablo Abbey (crozier, lamb & oak tree), Münster (bar) and Liège (pillar). Electoral hat dividing 16_08 over oval Bavarian arms (lozenges) in frame supported by 2 lions, in circle. 42.5 mm, 28.91 g. Mehl 387. Not in Dav. or KM. Realized 18,000 euro before buyer fee of 20% and VAT.

As you can see from the lengthy title and even more from all the coats of arms on the reverse, Ernst ruled a great number of territories. The youngest son of Duke Albrecht V of Bavaria, he was earmarked for an ecclesiastical career from an early age. Educated by the Jesuits, he was elected bishop of Freising in 1566 at the age of 12 and Administrator of the diocese of Hildesheim in 1573 at the age of 19. In 1581 he became Prince-Bishop of Liège (with its attached territories Bouillon, Hasbain, Looz and

Franchimont), and Prince-Abbot of Stablo and Malmedy, a double abbey consisting of two neighboring Benedictine monasteries. When Archbishop Gebhard of Truchsess Waldburg converted to Protestantism in 1583, Ernest was elected Archbishop of Cologne and with an army of Spanish and Bavarian troops he quickly drove out Gebhard in what is known as the Cologne War. The archbishopric of Cologne brought with it the duchy of Westphalia and the city of Arnsberg. Much more important, the archbishops of Cologne were one of the seven Electors of the Holy Roman Emperor. That apparently was not enough. In 1585 he added Münster to his roll of bishoprics. An ardent supporter of the Counter-Reformation, Ernst was known as the protector of Roman Catholicism in northwestern Germany.

Ernst first visited his diocese of Hildesheim in 1580. He intended to reside there but the following year he left for Liège when he was elected Bishop and he never returned to Hildesheim. This would not prevent him striking the first coinage of a bishop of Hildesheim since 1428.

Bishop Magnus of Hildesheim (1424-52) had mortgaged his mint right to the city of Hildesheim in 1428. Ernst decided to take the mint right back but the city saw no reason why it should voluntarily return the mint right without compensation. To get round this, Ernst set up a mint on property he owned on Moritzberg just outside the city. The city acquiesced to this breach of their legal rights. On March 1, 1598, Christoph Diess, who had been mintmaster in the county of Regenstein and whose father had been mintmaster for the city of Hildesheim, was appointed master of the new Moritzberg mint for 10 years. The first coins were struck in 1599. Diess was succeeded in 1607 by Hans Lachentris. According to Mehl, his contract laid down that he had to pay for 200 Taler of coin production per year, 130 Taler more than Diess. The Taler in the Künker auction was struck by him.

Although not known to Davenport, this coin has appeared in auctions from time to time and is listed in Mehl's book on the coinage of the bishops of Hildesheim published in 2002.

The second Hildesheim coin (Lot 867) is much rarer. Indeed, Künker calls it probably unique. It is a 1619 Reichstaler struck not by the Bishop but by the City of Hildesheim with the name and titles of Emperor Matthias on the reverse.



Reichstaler of Hildesheim City, Emperor Matthias, 1619
Fritz Rudolf Künker, auction 301, February 1, 2018, lot 867
Unlisted in Davenport

Obv.: • MONETA • NOUA • _ • REIPUB • HILDES •. Woman in formal dress with hat dividing M W (= Matthias Weber, mintmaster 1614-22) emerging from elaborate helmeted oval city arms (eagle issuant from quarters per fess), breaking out of circle. Rev.: : MATHI : D : G : ROM : _ : IMPER : SEMP : AU : 16 _ 19 : Crowned double eagle with Imperial orb on breast, breaking out of circle. 43 mm, 28.54 g., unlisted. Not in Dav., Buck/Bahrf. or KM. Realized 30,000 euro before buyer fee of 20% and VAT.

Davenport did not list the Emperor Matthias specimen above but did list very similar coins with the title of Emperor Matthias' successor, Ferdinand II, on the reverse (Dav. 5417-5420). One such coin from the Popken Collection was also offered in the Künker auction (Lot 871).



Taler of Hildesheim City, Emperor Ferdinand II, 1626
Fritz Rudolf Künker, auction 301, February 1, 2018, lot 871

Obv.: ** MONETA • NOVA • REI ** ** PVBLI • HILDESHEI *. Woman in formal dress with hat emerging from helmeted oval shield with city arms (eagle issuant from quarters per fess), breaking out of circle. Rev.: FERDINAN • II • D • G • ROMA • IMPE • SEM • AVG Zainhaken (billet hook = Andreas Fricke, mintmaster 1622-30). Crown dividing 16_Z6 in legend over double eagle with orb on breast, breaking out of circle. 43 mm, 28.85 g., Dav. 5420, KM 195.3, Buck/Bahrf. 220k. Realized 2,600 euro before buyer fee of 20% and VAT.

The third Davenport unlisted coin was offered the same day in an auction of “Numismatic Rarities from around the World” (auction 302, lot 1426). Coming from the Netherlands it is an undated Daalder of 30 Stuivers struck by the Groninger Ommelanden (the territories around Groningen) in 1584.



Daalder of 30 Stuivers struck by the Groninger Ommelanden (1584)

Fritz Rudolf Künker, auction 302, February 1, 2018, lot 1426

Unlisted in Davenport

Obv.: MONE • ARGEN • DNR (= Dominorum, of the Lords): FRIS (= of Friesland). INT (er = between) • AMA (sum = the Ems) • Z (= and) • LAVR (acum = the Lauwers) cross of 5 dots Eagle left dividing T (ringinta) S (tuferorum = 30 stuivers), in circle. Rev.: PATIENTIA • VIN - CIT • FORTITVDIN (e = endurance overcomes through courage) lily (= Hendrik Velthuysen or his widow and successor, Anna van Wissel, mintmaster). Crowned emperor (Charlemagne) seated with scepter and orb, at feet shield with arms (eagle) of Fivelingo (or Fivelgo, one of the districts of the Ommelanden). 42 mm, 28.83 g., CNM (2006).2.15.11. Imitation of Aachen 1571 Reichstaler (see www.aachen-muenzen.com). Similar to de Mey *Ecus d'Europe* 2190 & MP-B II, 3237 (type 118) and piefort 2 Daalder of 60 Stuiver – Dav. 8835, Delm. 726, de Mey *Ecus d'Europe* 2191. Realized 28,000 euro before buyer fee of 20% and VAT.

The coin is not in Davenport, although he has a double weight (60 stuivers) coin with the same reverse and a similar obverse, except that the eagle bears the arms of the Ommelanden on its breast and the legend is slightly different (Dav. 8835). This same coin appears in Delmonte and in de Mey. Only CNM, a more recent Dutch catalogue, has the coin which appeared in the Künker auction.

Both the 30 and 60 stuivers are imitations of a well-known Taler of the city of Aachen in Germany, not far away. Charlemagne was crowned Holy Roman Emperor in Aachen on Christmas Day, 800, when the city became a governmental center of the German Empire. The city ever after struck coins with a seated Charlemagne in recognition of its historic role.



Reichstaler of Aachen, 1571
Fritz Rudolf Künker, auction 184, March 15, 2011, lot 4002

At first sight one might wonder why a Groningen coin has the legend “money of Friesland.” Groningen is in fact historically part of Friesland and dominated a large part of Friesland from the 15th century. It was sometimes referred to as Little Friesland. Under the so called ‘Staple Rights’ the ‘Ommelanden’ (territories around Groningen) had to trade their grain in the city and were allowed to brew beer for personal use only. Opposition against the Staple Rights increased and in 1575 the Ommelanden seceded from the city. In 1579 the Ommelanden signed the Union of Utrecht and joined the Calvinist rebellion against Spain. They also resisted the authorities in other parts of Friesland. After the city of Groningen (Catholic and pro-Spanish) capitulated to Dutch forces in 1594, the States General decided to combine the city and the Ommelanden into a seventh voting province.

Incidentally, Davenport translates the obverse legend FRIS • INT • AMA • Z • LAV as Friesland between the Ems and Liège. Liège (Leodium in Latin) is obviously wrong. LAV is short for Lavracum, the Latin name of the Lauwers, a small river which forms part of the border between the provinces of Friesland and Groningen.

In another twist this daalder was struck in Gorinchem in the province of Holland. In the Middle Ages the lords of Arkel struck coins there. In 1583 the city council of Gorinchem granted pieces of land to the Groninger Ommelanden and also to Don Antonio, the ousted king of Portugal and brother-in-law of William of Orange. Later they also granted territory to Karel van Croy, Prince of Chimay and his wife Maria of Brimeu, countess of Megen. They were all allowed to open a mint within the city, which the city itself also used to strike a variety of coins. If anyone should complain, they could claim the old mint right of the lords of Arkel from the Middle Ages.

The Groninger Ommelanden's own mint at Appingedam, opened in 1577, had been closed in 1580 because of the fear of a Spanish invasion. The mintmaster, Hendrik Velthuysen, had gone to Gorinchem in 1583 to join Don Antonio, the ousted king of Portugal. In 1584 he succeeded in persuading the Ommelanden to reopen their mint in Gorinchem. He died shortly thereafter but his widow, Anna van Wissel, successfully petitioned to succeed him as the mintmaster of both Don Antonio and the Groninger Ommelanden. However, the mint was closed by the Ommelanden government in 1585 because of the many complaints about the quality of the coins. This daalder, however, seems of good quality.

There are always new coins to be discovered, not just ancients but even from the relatively recent 16th and 17th centuries in Europe.

All images, enlarged about 1.25×, and lot descriptions are courtesy Fritz Rudolf Künker GmbH & Co. KG, Osnabrück. Images: Lübke & Wiedemann KG, Leonberg.

References:

- Buck, Heinrich. and Max von Bahrfeldt. *Die Münzen der Stadt Hildesheim*. Hildesheim-Leipzig: A. Lax, 1937.
- Cuhaj, George et al. *Standard Catalog of World Coins 1601-1700*, 6th edition. Iola, Wisconsin: Krause Publications, 2014.
- Davenport, John S. *European Talers 1484-1600* 2nd edition. Frankfurt: Numismatischer Verlag P.N. Schulten, 1985.
- . *German Talers 1500-1600*. Frankfurt: Numismatischer Verlag P.N. Schulten, 1979.
- Delmonte, A. *The Silver Benelux*. Amsterdam: Jacques Schulman, 1967.
- de Mey, Jean. *European Crown Size and Multiples, Vol.1, Germany 1486-1599*. Amsterdam: Mevius & Hirschhorn Int. B.V., 1975.
- . *Repertoire des Monnaies des Pays d'en-Bas, Tome II, Partie Septentrionale 1433-1806*. Wemmel: Jean de Mey, 1989.
- Mehl, Manfred. *Die Münzen des Bistums Hildesheim, Teil 2- Der Prägezeitraum 1599 bis 1783*. Hamburg: Verlag Manfred Mehl, 2002.
- Nicol, N. Douglas et al. *Standard Catalog of German Coins 1501- Present*, 3rd Edition. Iola, Wisconsin: Krause Publications, 2011.
- Passon, Tom. *Catalogus van de Nederlandse Munten*, 1st edition. Apeldoorn: Omni-Trading, 2006.
- Stuurman, Jan G. "De Munt van de Ommelanden op reis (1579-1591)" part 2, in *De Beeldenaar*, Sept./Oct. 2007, 31st Year, no. 5, pp. 225-237. Available on internet: http://debeeldenaar.nl/wp-content/uploads/archief/De-Beeldenaar/De-Beeldenaar_2007_05.pdf accessed November 25, 2018.

www.aachen-muenzen.com

www.uiten.nl/gorinchem.html

Wikipedia

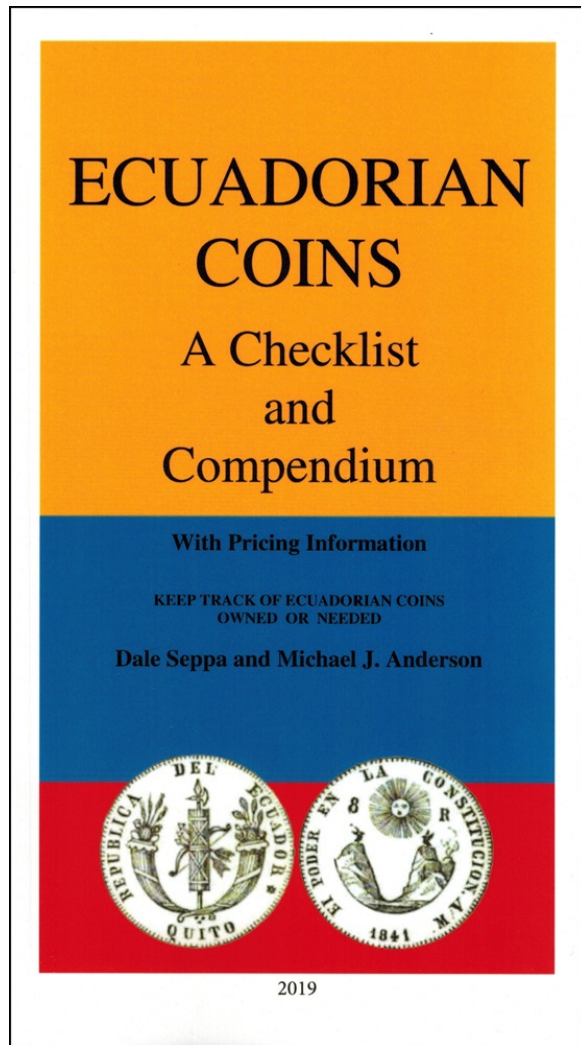
Book News and Reviews

If you already own *Ecuadorian Coins an Annotated Checklist with Pricing Information* 2016 edition, the 2019 edition as *Ecuadorian Coins A Checklist and Compendium with Pricing Information* with a color cover is a significant upgrade. The authors have added material, updated many prices—both up and down—and done a fine job of displaying the items in a logical format. While no author should expect everyone to agree with them throughout what is a reference book for a distinct country and small regions nearby, it seems appropriate to expect as much detail and information as possible. The authors have updated the coins on which the prices are based and show their work from numerous auction results. Having the 2016 edition in hand, allows the reader to see the differences. Sure, the coin markets have changed, but they do the heavy lifting on coins across the spectrum for the reader.

Both Seppa and Anderson are experts in the field of Ecuadorian coins. The various third-party grading services referred to—Servicio de Registro Numismático (SRN), Professional Coin Grading Service (PCGS) and Numismatic Guaranty Corporation (NGC)—provide certainty as to the genuineness and accurate grading of their products. SRN is probably the best option for local Ecuadorian collectors due to shipping costs whereas PCGS and NGC have strength in major markets like the United States of America. In a similar fashion, the EC#s are original, unique numbers to describe the coins. While the Krause-Mishler Standard Catalog of World Coins for the appropriate century may have good information worldwide, this duo's numbering system has taken hold for almost 50 years. I wish that this level of attention was available for other country's numismatic material that I delight in collecting.

Reading this checklist is more like speaking with a pair of friends - the authors. They seem to answer one's questions almost before they are posed out loud. While not perfect, they offer the best advice available and solicit suggestions to improve collector's work.

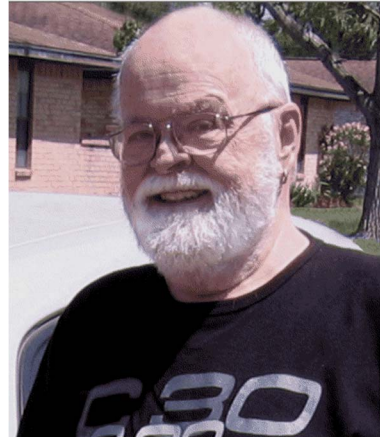
Continued on p. 38...



Holland West Wallace III 1940 – 2018 RIP

Friend-Numismatist-Author-Editor-Researcher

Holland was born in Hidalgo County, Texas on the 21st day of March 1940 to Holland W. Wallace, Jr. and Patricia Elliott Wallace. He graduated from Weslaco High School, at age 17, in the class of 1957. He had been a top 10 National Merit Scholar in Texas and later attended Rice University before transferring to the University of Texas, School of Architecture.



Regardless of his academic achievements, Holland's real love was coins and the history and economics related to coins. After working as an architectural draftsman for a few years he went to work for Stanley K. Rupert, a well-known San Antonio coin dealer where he gained a wide general knowledge of numismatics.

During this period he authored and published *Central American Coinage Since 1821*. In the words of the Central American numismatic scholar Brian Stickney (*E-Sylum*: Vol. 21, Num. 43, Oct. 28, 2018).

“This handy 125-page book opened the field to collecting the seven countries now constituting Central America. Holland's work provided just enough background to arouse interest and provide historical context but, then, saturated the reader with numismatic detail not really seen in references to that date. *Central American Coinage* incorporated a plethora of photos along with each coin's narrative description, weight, diameter, and metallic content along with prices in three-to-four grades and the occasional cryptic comment on rarity or variations. Also, for the first time, he provided extensive mintage data, where known. He set the tone for future endeavors addressing country, regional, and even global numismatic references works.”

Coin World edition of May 11, 1966 announced that Holland had joined the editorial staff of the Whitman Publishing Company in Racine, WI. Sometime in late 1966 or early 1967 Holland kindly invited Soterios Gardiakos and me to be his guests at Whitman. It was the first time I met him, and in the few hours we were together I learned many things previously unknown to me. He continued to be a source of help and information to me and many others over the next fifty years.

Holland's favorite (and most important) achievement in his numismatic life was his massive contributions to *Modern World Coins* which opened the door to a generation of collectors. During his ten years at Whitman, Holland authored and edited many articles and books including *A Guide Book of Mexican Coins - 1822 to Date*, *Coins of the World 1750 – 1850* as well as other books authored by R. S. Yeoman. Several of his articles were also published in the *Whitman Numismatic Journal* and other periodicals.

Holland left Whitman and moved to California becoming a dealer specializing in Latin American coins. He issued regular price lists and had bourse tables at many major coin shows very often working with Freeman L. Craig, Jr. In conjunction with Craig, he finished a 250-page book entitled *Crown Coinage of the Americas* which was never

published due to the financial failure of the publisher. Based on letters from him and comments from others the decade he spent in California was the happiest period of his life.

When he subsequently decided to further his education he returned to Texas to attend San Antonio College (now UTSA) acquiring a degree in Information Systems. He subsequently returned to Weslaco to help his aging parents take care of his handicapped brother. With the death of his mother in 1994 his burden increased as he cared for his brother and a rapidly aging father. After the death of his father in 2001 the complete management of the family trusts fell upon Holland's shoulders. By this time Holland was also in failing health so the burden was two-fold if not four-fold.

With failing health, and increased responsibility Holland commenced his long period of decline through no fault of his own. A flood in 2016 destroyed about ten thousand pounds of numismatic literature which must have been heartbreaking to a person that had built one of the finest, privately held Latin American numismatic libraries in the world. The remaining four tons or so of Latin American numismatic literature have been moved to the establishment of Alan Workman in Orlando who will auction them off in 2019 and 2020. It includes many unpublished (and often unfinished) articles and analysis compiled by Holland over a period of 55 years. They include notes on most Central and South American countries, including approximately 100 pages concerning the entire run of *cuartillas* (1/4 real coins) in silver and other metals.

His last years passed largely in pain and he was often bed ridden for weeks and months at a time. Nevertheless he continued his research and email contacts, as long as he was still able, with the friends and associates that he had acquired over six decades as a professional numismatist and researcher.

Sad to see another great numismatist pass away but ashes to ashes and dust to dust – rest in peace my friend! You will be missed by many!

Submitted by Dale Seppa



...continued from p. 36

Patterns and counterfeit coins are addressed as are errors, counterstamps, countermarked coins, cracked and doubled items. Just when one thinks they are at an end, silver special issues—much like commemorative coins—are shown. Tokens and script applicable to Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands are shown too, along with hints as to how to proceed with a study of the “RA” countermarked Ecuadorian coins attributed to the Galapagos Islands, covering the area from 1884 through 1916.

Reviewed by John Okerson

Ecuadorian Coins, a Checklist and Compendiums. The price for orders to be delivered to U.S. addresses is \$30.00. Foreign orders must add \$15.00 for postage. Registration for foreign orders is an additional \$15.00 if desired. Order from Dale Seppa, 103 N 6th Ave., Virginia, MN 55792. Personal Checks, Money Orders, Cash (at sender's risk) or PayPal are accepted. Personal checks will not be deposited until books are ready for shipment. Credit card orders can be processed through PayPal. PayPal orders can be placed by sending the exact amount to dalseppa@gmail.com or by requesting a PayPal invoice from that same email address.